

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present inventors have discovered that 3-Isopropylmalate dehydratase is essential for fungal pathogenicity. Specifically, the inhibition of 3-Isopropylmalate dehydratase gene expression in fungi results in no signs of successful infection or lesions.

5 Thus, 3-Isopropylmalate dehydratase can be used as a target for the identification of antibiotics, preferably antifungals. Accordingly, the present invention provides methods for the identification of compounds that inhibit 3-Isopropylmalate dehydratase expression or activity. The methods of the invention are useful for the identification of antibiotics, 10 preferably antifungals.

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